

Meteor-Heraut

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Quick Read

In General

Tax stickers lose grip

Drivers with SHAPE registration plates can now remove the blue road tax sticker from vehicles. This change was effective from Jan. 1. Next year you will not receive a new sticker from the Registration Office. SHAPE is negotiating with Belgian authorities and waiting for an answer on road tax. Info: DSN 423-3933/4148.

Scholarships offered

Andrews Federal Credit Union offers a scholarship program to AFCU members pursuing a degree from an accredited college or university. Five scholarships, in the amount of \$2,500 each, will be awarded to the best overall candidates. Scholarship applications are available by visiting the AFCU web site www.andrewsfcu.org from now until Feb. 28. The deadline for completed packages is by close of business, March 7. Info: Julie Chrysler, 49 611 9787 508.

Belgium

Dr. King remembered

A program to honor the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is set for Jan. 18, 10-11:30 a.m. at SHAPE Cinema. Guest speakers are Sgt. Maj. Frank Goodman, USAREUR Equal Opportunity Office; and Annie Butler, Installation Management Agency, Europe, Equal Employment Opportunity Chief. Community volunteers for last year's observances will also be recognized. Info: DSN 361-5281.

Finance transactions limited

Benelux Finance Office has only one cashier offering solely U.S. dollar transactions, Jan. 21, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., with no Euro or Great Britain Pound transactions. DFAS is installing a new disbursing system which limits capabilities that day. Please plan accordingly for financial needs prior to Jan. 21 due to limited service and possible inconvenience that this could present. Info: David Marsh, DSN 423-4687.

Brussels sets meeting

A Community Town Hall meeting is Jan. 26, 6-7 p.m., at NATO Support Activity community conference room. Info: 02 707-9488

Netherlands and Germany

Dr. King honored

A celebration honors the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Jan. 19, 8:30-10:30 a.m., at the International Inn in Brunssum. Cost is Euro 6.25 for the breakfast buffet. Guest speaker is Sgt. Maj. Frank Goodman, USAREUR Equal Opportunity Office. Info and tickets: Sgt. 1st Class David M. Williams, DSN 360-7534 or 046 443-7534 or Jerry Francis, DSN 360-7445 or 046 443-7445.

The Bulge plus 60



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

American World War II veterans sing the U.S. National Anthem Dec. 18 at the General Patton Memorial in Bastogne, Belgium. The vets fought in the Battle of the Bulge in 1944-1945 and returned to Europe to participate in 60th Anniversary ceremonies.

Left to right are Ray Wenning, Alfred Grossenbacher, Robert Reed, and John McAuliffe, who is no relation to the 101st Airborne Div. general. More Battle of the Bulge 60th Anniversary coverage is on pages 5-8.

DOD rushes aid to tsunami victims



PHOTO: Seaman Jordon R. Beesley, U.S. Navy

Joyful children of Mglaboh, Sumatra, thank U.S. Petty Officer 2nd Class Donal Shannon from Los Angeles, Calif. Jan. 6 for bringing them food and water that has been desperately needed because of the devastating tsunami of Dec. 26.

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Jan. 5, 2004) — Several Army units are among the many military assets the United States Department of Defense is using to bring relief to the victims of the Dec. 26 earthquake-induced tsunami in the Far East.

Deploying as part of the Combined Support Force for the disaster relief effort are a variety of Army experts from areas as widely spread as Thailand and Arkansas.

U.S. Army Forces Command is sending four mortuary affairs teams from Fort Lee, Va. to help in identification, processing and evacuation of the dead from the disaster.

The 8th Army, Korea, is deploying medical and logistic units including CH-47 Chinook helicopters to provide evacuation, supply distribution and medical assistance.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is sending three Forward Engineering Support Teams from Japan, Alaska and Arkansas to help in the area's recovery. Each team consists of a military team leader, a civil engineer, a structural engineer and a geotechnical engineer.

The team from Alaska will provide assistance to Indonesia. The Japan contingent is headed to Sri Lanka, and the team from Arkansas goes to Thailand.

The teams will help assess the damage to the countries' infrastructure and aid with reconstruction planning.

In addition to the FEST support, an engineer from the Engineering Research and Development Center, in Vicksburg, Miss., has also headed to the area. The engineer is a Thai native who will be attached to the Joint Task Force Humanitarian Assistance Cell.

U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C., is sending three civil affairs teams and a psychological operations assessment team. The CA teams consist of a planning team and two civil affairs teams to coordinate relief efforts. The PSYOP assessment team will use its capabilities for information distribution in concert with local officials

and relief organizations.

The Army is part of a joint and combined expeditionary force deploying from around the globe to support this disaster relief effort. U.S. Army Pacific is the lead coordinating command for Army support to the CSF.

American Red Cross provides disaster relief

The American Red Cross is able to accept monetary contributions for earthquake and tsunami relief efforts in the southern Asia and eastern Africa area, according to Bridget Blixt, station manager of the SHAPE office.



Blixt

“There are several ways for people to make contributions to the relief effort,” Blixt said. “They can telephone 1 800 HELP-NOW, or in Spanish at 1 800 257-7575. Individuals can donate securely on-line by visiting our web site at www.redcross.org. Contributions can also be mailed to the international response fund.”

That address is:
American Red Cross
International Response Fund
P.O. Box 37243
Washington, DC 20013

The SHAPE office of the American Red Cross is in Building 318, second floor, phone DSN 423-4008.



Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski, 80th ASG Commander

I hope you had a rewarding holiday season. We have much to be thankful for as we continue to support deployed NATO members and their families. The

Nowowiejski Notes

598th Transportation Terminal Group in Rotterdam, a member of our ASG family, has many members deploying while I write this. They will need our tangible support, thoughts and prayers over the next several months. The 598th TTG has a critical mission in support of the GWOT, especially as forces rotate through our ports of Rotterdam, Antwerp, and Bremerhaven.

This edition's main topic is **your physical security**. I have written previously about our need to be more aware and more cautious with our ID cards and installation passes because of the risk of those means of access falling in the wrong hands. Even if we eliminate those cards we misplace in our travels, our homes, and our cars, there will still be the significant risk that they will be stolen along with your credit cards and money.

Within the 80th ASG area of operations, there is a fairly significant risk of getting your wallet or purse stolen. We face many **intentional thieves** in urban areas who make their living targeting the unsuspecting and stealing their monetary instruments and identifi-

cation. It happens all the time when community members are out on the weekend or traveling, or just shopping in their local area.

Your **best prevention steps** are awareness, low visibility, and precaution. Don't advertise that you have money or credit cards, show inadvertently where they are, or make it easy to reach your wallet or purse. These expert thieves will have your wallet and be gone before you can think about it.

I'm also concerned about the amount of **property crime** in our area. We have too many houses that are broken into. So the steps that you have been taught for years about locking your house and making it look lived in, plus having people check your house or even stay there while you are gone, are more important than normal in our area. Take precautions and don't make it obvious that you are not at home. We have actually had houses practically emptied by professional thieves.

Together we can protect ourselves and each other. The risks are greater than you might imagine that you can be caught unawares. Please be on your guard.

Practice safety over holiday weekend

Bell Sends #10-05

20 December 2004

Martin Luther King, Jr., Day
Holiday Weekend Safety

1. On 17 January 2005 our country will celebrate its commitment to civil rights by honoring a great clergyman, civil rights leader, and Nobel Peace Prize recipient: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The United States Army is a leader in promoting equality and the ideals fostered by Dr. King.

2. I have designated 14 January 2005 as a USAREUR training holiday to give Soldiers here in garrison a 4-day weekend. I encourage each of you to use the holiday weekend to enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation, spend time with your families, and replenish your spirit. I also ask that you remain vigilant in your efforts to ensure your safety and the safety of your loved ones. Do not take any unnecessary risks, and do not allow your fellow Soldiers and civilians to do so.

3. Those who will be traveling over the holiday weekend should be aware that driving

in Europe at this time of year can be dangerous. Over the last 10 years, 29 USAREUR Soldiers have died in vehicle

crashes during the winter months. Snow, black ice (especially on bridges and in shaded areas), limited visibility, and extended hours of darkness are just some of the hazards that drivers may encounter.

4. If you plan to travel, do not overextend yourself. Driving too fast for conditions is a factor in many crashes; plan carefully and give yourself enough time to reach your destination.

Instead of driving, consider traveling by train or using another type of public transportation. Most importantly, discuss your plans with your first-line leaders Under the Oak Tree, ask for their advice and assistance, and take steps to mitigate any risks. So far this fiscal year, we have lost two Soldiers, one civilian employee, and two fam-

ily members in vehicle crashes. All indications are that these crashes could have been avoided if the individuals involved had as-

essed the risks and made better decisions—mostly to slow down!

5. Leaders: I need your help to ensure our great Soldiers and civilians are prepared for the upcoming holiday weekend. All of you should be following the principles of the Cody Model. This Model is explained in the Army Safety Campaign at <https://besafe.army.mil/pages/campaign.html>

and the USAREUR 2004-2005 Winter Safety Campaign at http://www.per.hqusareur.army.mil/services/safetydivision/usareur_winter_safety_campaign.htm.

6. The tools we use in USAREUR to help junior leaders include Bell Sends messages, the Driver's Risk Awareness Questionnaire, the Off-Duty Risk Assessment (described

in Army in Europe Command Policy Letter 3), and the Under the Oak Tree process. Combine these tools with mentoring by using a "three-deep leadership" method (contact-level leadership backed up with two levels of active leader involvement and associated guidance, mentoring, and assistance). Use these tools to demonstrate your commitment to the safety of your personnel.

7. Our goal for the upcoming long weekend is No Loss of Life. Do not let anyone die on your watch. Have a great holiday, but do not lose sight of safety. Take care of yourselves and those in your charge so that everyone gets back safely. Doing this exemplifies what I mean by executing with excellence, Any Mission, Anywhere.



Gen. B. B. Bell

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

Soldier overdose troubles USAREUR commander

Bell Sends #11-05

SAFETY ALERT

Soldier Dies of Apparent Drug Overdose

8 January 2005

This Bell Sends supersedes Bell Sends #11-05, subject as above, 5 January 2005.

1. USAREUR recently lost another young Soldier due to apparent substance abuse. The Soldier was found sitting in a chair covered in his own vomit after he failed to appear for formation. This Soldier did not die while trying to save a buddy or fighting the Global War on Terrorism; he apparently died because he chose to use drugs.

2. Leaders: We have a problem. This is the second fatality in USAREUR this quarter due to apparent substance abuse. Tragedies such as these are unacceptable. We must do everything we can to prevent them from happening.

3. Soldiers:

• With my Under the Oak Tree guidance, I directed your leaders, immediate supervisors, and fellow Soldiers to be-

come involved in your lives in an effort to put an end to these senseless deaths. I expect our leaders to help you make mature decisions that will keep you alive. If this sounds like I want our leaders to "get involved in your business," you're right.

• It is my responsibility to ensure that each of you is trained and ready to serve our Nation—anytime, anywhere, with little or no advance warning. Soldiers who abuse drugs are not prepared for this challenge. A unit that loses a Soldier is no longer as capable and ready. Because of safety concerns, a Soldier with a drug problem is not someone we want driving our trucks, repairing our aircraft, or protecting our flanks in combat. If you have a drug problem, get help. If your buddy has a drug problem, ensure that he or she gets help. The Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) has a variety of professional treatment options, counseling, and prevention resources available in every community. Your local medical treatment facility, chaplain, or chain of command can help you obtain assistance

through ASAP.

• Never forget that Soldiers are the Army's most valuable asset. Each of you has volunteered to be a highly skilled warrior. The talents you bring to the battlefield are far more important than the most powerful tank or aircraft our Army has. The Army needs every one of you to be ready to meet the challenges in the Global War on Terrorism.

4. Leaders: Ensure that this safety alert is given widest possible distribution by forwarding it electronically and posting it on unit bulletin boards. No Loss of Life is our goal. I need every Soldier trained, ready, and fit to continue to execute with excellence, Any Mission, Anywhere.

General, USA
Commanding

New Resume Builder should streamline process of applying for employment online

HEIDELBERG, Germany—The Army will deploy a new version of the Army Civilian Resume Builder and ANSWER Jan. 18. The deployment of the new Resume Builder will simplify the application process. The new tool will combine both the Resume Builder and ANSWER into one application providing a number of benefits to applicants for U.S. Appropriated Fund positions.

When first accessing the new Resume Builder/ANSWER tool users with existing Resume Builder and ANSWER accounts

should log in as "Registered Users."

Users will be prompted to verify/update their registration information. Users' existing resumes will not move into the new Resume Builder, therefore, it is highly recommended that they save a copy of their current resume. Individuals may continue to self-nominate for vacancy announcements using their current resume that is already established in the central RESUMIX database.

Enhancements and features of the new Resume Builder / ANSWER are: Army

Civilian Resume Builder and ANSWER now together under one login process; Capability to toggle between Resume Builder and ANSWER; User friendly/Menu driven - no more scrolling down one long page; Enhanced copy, cut, and paste capability - able to copy from ANSWER and paste into Resume Builder; Worksheet formats available for work experience, education and additional information that help put information in proper format; New job experience entries will automatically be entered at the beginning

of the resume; One large box for job experience versus six individual boxes which allows for more flexibility; Now up to 12,000 characters for job experience description; Status tracking enhanced - only last 25 entries displayed, with option to view more; Enhanced "Help Menus" available for applicant's use.

To learn more on how to apply for Army jobs, visit the Employment section of the CHRA-E website at <http://www.chra.eur.army.mil> or the new Army CPOL Portal at <http://cpol.army.mil>

General's wartime legacy prompts granddaughter's return to Bastogne

By Rick Haverinen

A granddaughter of one of World War II's most memorable American leaders returned her family's legacy to a Belgian community to remember one chapter of the war's tumultuous history.

Helen Patton-Plusczyk, a granddaughter of Gen. George S. Patton Jr., participated in multiple ceremonies in and around Bastogne last month to mark the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

Her grandfather, who commanded the U.S. Third Army during the war, was killed in an automotive accident in December 1945, so the two never met.

"I can only know my grandfather through stories (I've heard,) and books that I've read," Patton-Plusczyk said, "and I can only know him through the veterans that I've met and my family. Two stories that are popping into my mind now are both recorded in (his book) 'War As I

Knew It.' He was preparing for this whole siege (in Bastogne) and trying to convince the high command that this is going to work. He was saying, 'Why is it that I am the one that's always having to be the backslapper? Why am I always the little ray of sunshine?' And I think that is so funny, because in a sense, he was just able to bring that hope and that positive knowingness to all this, but in a fierce way."

Patton-Plusczyk's second story is related to the refusal of 101st Airborne Div. acting commander Brig. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe to accept a Nazi written demand to surrender the surrounded city of Bastogne on Dec. 22, 1944. McAuliffe reacted by saying, "Ah, nuts!" and dropping the document on the floor. That response was then relayed to the

puzzled German officers who came to McAuliffe's headquarters under white flag to deliver the ultimatum. An American colonel had to explain to the Germans that McAuliffe's response meant the same as, "Go to hell."

"The other story is (my grandfather's) response to McAuliffe's, 'Nuts,' Patton-Plusczyk said. "He said, 'Anybody who could be that eloquent to say, nuts, deserves to be relieved.' Something got back to my grandfather that impressed him. We do know that my grandfather said that."

Patton-Plusczyk said there are stories in her family about her grandfather as a parent.

"I've heard that he was a very stern parent, not a great parent, in all due respect," Patton-Plusczyk said. "I think he was rather 'all thumbs' with the job. I think he admired his kids from a distance. I think he actually learned parenting when he was commanding the Third Army in a sense."

Patton-Plusczyk said her grandfather's heirs have often thought about the qualities that made the senior Patton a skilled military commander.

"I think there were a couple of things," Patton-Plusczyk said. "One is, you know his nickname was 'Blood and Guts.' That was given to him by the media.

And he retorted saying, 'Look, it's not blood and guts, it's brains and guts.' And I think that really ought to be his legacy. And the other is he believed in himself to a point where, he knew what he knew, when he knew what he knew. I mean, he didn't try to pretend to know more than what he knew. And therefore when he got up against a rock and a hard place, for instance like in the



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

Helen Patton-Plusczyk, a granddaughter of World War II General George S. Patton Jr., visits with guests following a Dec. 18 ceremony in Bastogne's City Hall. To the left is a sculpture in elm wood by Yves Lantz that Patton-Plusczyk is donating to the city to remind its citizens of her grandfather.

Bulge, and he couldn't change the weather, but he knew it was going to decide this thing, he distributed a (printed) prayer and asked all of his Soldiers to pray it. And he got his answer actually, first a 'no,' then a 'yes,' both perfect decisions. And keeping with that, he said, 'Thank you,' to his commander-in-chief (in heaven,) and told him he was a brilliant military leader."

The motion picture that cast George C. Scott as her grandfather portrayed the general as an intuitive personality, and Patton-Plusczyk agrees he had perceptive qualities that were helpful as a military strategist.

"He understood war and some people speculate that he believed in reincarnation," Patton-Plusczyk said. "Maybe so. He read and he had been hearing these stories of his predecessors from the time he was a little boy at his mother's knee, and his father's

knee. He was really up on all the knights in shining armor and the Romans and the Hannibals. In fact he wrote a gorgeous poem called, 'Through a Glass Darkly,' about all the various warriors he had been. And he would say, 'Many lives, but always me.' I think that was his last line."

Patton-Plusczyk is the daughter of George S. Patton, who initially used the Roman numeral III after his name, but dropped it when he felt it was too awkward. Her brother is named George S. Patton Jr., as her grandfather was. Patton-Plusczyk's father retired as a major general in the U.S. Army, and died last summer in Massachusetts. Her father served three tours in Vietnam, and had commanded the 11th Armored Cavalry "Blackhorse" Reg., and the 2nd Armored Div., just as her grandfather had in North Africa during World War II.

Legal office explains tax advantages of vehicle ownership in Belgium for Americans

The Legal Assistance office at Northern Law Center explains rights concerning purchase and importation of autos and motorcycles in Belgium. United States personnel assigned to Belgium gain significant benefit by claiming tax exempt status for registering a vehicle in Belgium.

The "Implementing Adminis-

trative Arrangement for the Existing Vehicle Privileges" permits U.S. personnel to register one vehicle free of Belgian taxes. The arrangement extends this privilege to spouses of U.S. personnel and, in certain cases, to their children provided that the following criteria are satisfied: the child/spouse are dependent's under Belgian law; the child/spouse resides at the same address as the service member; the child/spouse has no occupational income other

than employment at SHAPE (subject to a Euro 4,683 annual limit) or outside SHAPE (subject to a Euro 2,475 annual limit); the child/spouse has a driving license recognized by Belgian Law.

If you have questions about what amounts to "occupational income" for vehicle registration purposes please contact either the Registration Office or the Northern Law Center at DSN 423-4148 and 423-4868 respectively.



Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date
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Jan. 31	Feb. 11	Feb. 28	March 11	March 28	April 8	April 25	May 6

About Us Meteor-Heraut

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Policy

- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
- Articles in plain text and separate photographic files may be submitted but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor. All submissions should be in electronic form as plain text. We cannot process information in documents such as PowerPoint, Excel or Acrobat.
- Event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms and include a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. We cannot reproduce prepared flyers in the *Meteor-Heraut*.

Advertising

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- The appearance of advertising, including inserts, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services offered. Everything advertised must be available for purchase, use or patronage, without discrimination.

- Any gambling or lottery requiring payment for chance cannot be advertised as stated in 18 U.S.C. 1302.

Deadline

Copy and photographs are due by noon 10 calendar days before publication date.

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Army Materiel Cmd. Europe merges units

SECKENHEIM, Germany - In step with the Army's transformation, Combat Equipment Group-Europe and Army Materiel Command Forward-Europe merged Nov. 18, forming Army Materiel Command Field Support Brigade-Europe. The new unit mirrors the mission of its parent, Army Field Support Command, and will deliver the full spectrum of logistics power projection and support to forces in the field.

"By combining two Army Materiel Command units with a proud history of Warfighter support, the Army gains a leaner organization, focused on delivering expertise and equipment to Soldiers and units throughout the European area of operations," said Col. Max Lobeto, commander of the newly-formed brigade.

Service to supported units is the focus of AMC FSB-E. "Adopting a brigade structure aligns us with the expeditionary Army units we support in Europe and beyond," said Lobeto. "Our mission is unchanged: AMC Field Support Brigade - Europe provides an essential and enduring link from America's arsenal to units and troops

in the field."

More than 300 people form the core of the brigade, with several hundred more host-nation service providers and contractors adding capabilities ranging from mechanical repairs to logistics assistance. "We have over 1,600 people on the ground throughout Europe and attached to US Army Eu-



Lobeto

rope units for one purpose: delivering logistics readiness power forward," Lobeto noted.

The new brigade also brings with it the capability to reach back to commands in the U.S. "Our team includes representatives from AMC's major subordinate commands, like tank-automotive and armaments command,

aviation and missile command, and others, enabling us to deliver expertise and equipment directly from the source to the Soldier," said Lobeto.

Pre-positioned equipment and repair capabilities also feature prominently in the new command. Field support battalions lo-

cated in the Netherlands, Italy, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom bring 20 years of experience delivering combat-ready equipment to the battlefield. "Many of the tanks and trucks the 3rd Infantry Div. drove to victory in Operation Iraqi Freedom were delivered by CEG-E, which has become the Field Services arm of the new brigade," Lobeto said.

Though the name has changed and the staff is consolidated, the pace of operations has not missed a beat all across the brigade. "Now that the 1st Armored Div. is back in Germany, our workforce is heavily engaged in rapidly repairing and returning equipment in what is called a 'reset' mission. By bringing our capabilities to bear, we are enabling the Soldiers of 1st A.D. to concentrate on training and getting back to full operational readiness," Lobeto observed.

Across the continent and beyond, the Army Materiel Command Field Support Brigade - Europe provides a lean means to deliver synchronized, integrated logistics power. "We're part of an Army at war and we are

adapting to the mission. By merging capabilities into one headquarters, we're providing combatant commanders with one-stop logistics services," Lobeto concluded.



PHOTO: Charles Fick

Left to right, Master Sgt. Rickie Williamson, Sgt. 1st Class Deljuan Hollingshead, and Sgt. 1st Class Jon Cox uncased the new unit colors during the Nov. 18 ceremony in Seckenheim, Germany, marking the activation of Army Materiel Command Field Support Brigade-Europe.

Watch for possible espionage

Tri-border community members can help guard against subversion and espionage directed against the Army (SAEDA) and the collection efforts of foreign intelligence services. Here are some persons to watch for:

Someone with a suspected history of extremist activity, or foreign intelligence affiliation, trying to cultivate a friendship with a soldier or federal civilian.

Someone who appears to be collecting information on U.S. persons or facilities through observation/surveillance, document collection, or questioning.

Someone who seeks information about military

missions, activities, equipment, facilities or personnel through unsolicited letters or email.

Someone who attempts to gain information through threats, coercion, bribery, trickery, or elicitation.

Someone who repeatedly violates known security procedures and/or mishandles sensitive national defense information.

Report incidents to your local security officer and/or the Benelux Military Intelligence Detachment at DSN: 364-6150/6146 or 045-563-6150/6146. If traveling and unable to reach your support element contact the local U.S. Embassy Regional Security Officer.

Innovation rewarded in 254th BSB

By Frans Meisen, PAIO Planning Specialist

On Nov. 17, Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson, Commander of the 254th Base Support Bn., recognized two employees with the first-ever incentive awards given for Productivity Improvement Review (PIR) submissions. Rob Walraven, 254th BSB Fire Chief, received two of the three awards, each worth Euro 200 of Dutch VVV tickets (gift certificates) while Mai Schel, 254th Property Book officer, walked away with the final award.

The PIR program formalizes the Army suggestion program by requiring a quarterly submission of ideas that result in a cost saving, upgrade in customer service or both. Each quarter, awards will be given in three categories: most customer focused, most efficient and most creative. The entire 254th workforce is encouraged to submit ideas.

The Plans, Analysis, and Integration office (PAIO) is the proponent for the PIR program. Presently, three directorates (DMWR, DPW, and DOL) have adopted the PIR cycle used to identify ideas and present them to Richardson for approval. Walraven's idea to save \$22,432 by reducing disposal costs for dry chemical fire extinguishers won him both the most efficient and most creative awards. Schel's idea to use digital photos to capture a true description of 254th BSB property was recognized as the most customer-focused award.

The next PIR cycle begins in January and Lt. Col. Richardson is looking forward to the new initiatives submitted by his staff. Any 254th employee wishing to submit an idea should contact the PAIO office at 360-7241 or 7438.

Tax help offered

Northern Law Center's Tax Assistance Office has free services for all servicemembers, their dependents, DOD civilians and retirees. Taxpayers will be able to file federal tax returns electronically and they can also receive help preparing and filing state tax returns.

Appointments are required for taxpayers with: rental property, sale of stock/mutual funds, itemized deductions, foreign tax issues, or other complicated matters.

Taxpayers should bring the following to prevent delays: ID card, W-2s, and 1099 forms; Social Security cards for themselves and dependents; void check or bank account cards for direct deposit; copy of last year's tax return (if available); if filing jointly, taxpayers should bring their spouse or a POA if spouse is absent.

All tax centers have the necessary federal and state income tax forms and special powers of attorney if couples file jointly and one spouse is absent.

The Tax Assistance Office has two locations: Building 318, Room 221, on SHAPE; and Building 4, Room 318 at NATO Support Activity in Brussels.

The Tax Assistance Office on SHAPE opens Jan. 25. Walk-ins and appointments are available Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Tax Assistance Office at NSA in Brussels is open part-time beginning Jan. 25. Tax assistance at NSA is by appointment only.

For appointments at SHAPE call DSN 423-4906 or 065 44-4906. For appointments in Brussels, call DSN 423-4868 or 065 44-4868.

Community mourns death of popular 39th Signal Bn. employee

Community members at SHAPE and Daumerie Caserne are mourning the death of George Robert Willoughby who died from a heart attack Dec. 26.

Willoughby was born May 24, 1950 in Greenville, N.C., where he lived until he entered the U.S. Army in June 1969. Willoughby retired as a Sergeant First Class in November 1991 after 22 years of dedicated service. His last duty assignment was with Co. C, 69th Signal Bn. in Bremerhaven, Germany.

Willoughby began working for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service in September 1991 and then transferred to the 115th Postal Company at SHAPE in December of that year. Willoughby began working for the 39th Signal Bn. in May 1997 where he worked as a Telecommunications Specialist until his death. At 39th Sig. Bn., Willoughby was circuit action manager, responsible for handling requests concern-

ing data circuits.

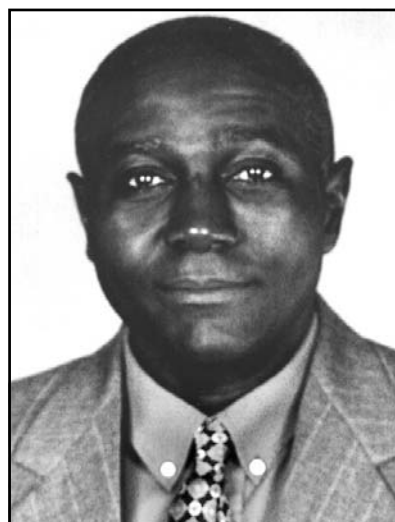
There was a viewing for Willoughby at a Mons, Belgium funeral home prior to his remains being returned to Greenville, N.C. for a Jan. 2 burial.

A memorial service was held at the Daumerie Chapel Jan. 6, which was attended by approximately 80 people.

At the memorial service 39th Signal Commander Lt. Col. Thomas Mahoney described Willoughby as "the epitome of the quiet professional."

"George was the silent warrior that worked diligently at the facility," Mahoney said. "In November, the Defense Information Systems Agency recognized him with a certificate of appreciation for his continued hard work at the GIG facility. He was the only individual recognized by DISA during this conference and his work contributed to the SHAPE Global Information Grid Facil-

ity receiving the European Runner-up in the Large GIG Facility Category for 2004."



George Willoughby

David Carter, network manager for Network Service Center SHAPE, described Willoughby as "a modest person who did not care for the limelight."

"We had to convince George to take a promotion as circuit action manager," Carter said. "He replied, 'Dave, I'm just happy to have a job here.' This was George as we all knew him, he never gave himself credit. During award ceremonies we would make him leave his desk to come accept an award. My last memory of George was him accepting a special award for outstanding service. He quietly accepted and thanked the people at work then hurried back to the office to continue his day as if nothing happened."

Willoughby is survived by his wife, Marie-Louise Willoughby, of Vaudignies, Belgium; a son, Abraham; and two sisters, Annie Willoughby and Mabel Howard; all of Greenville, N.C.

Battle of the Bulge



PHOTO: City of Bastogne



PHOTO: Rick Havenner

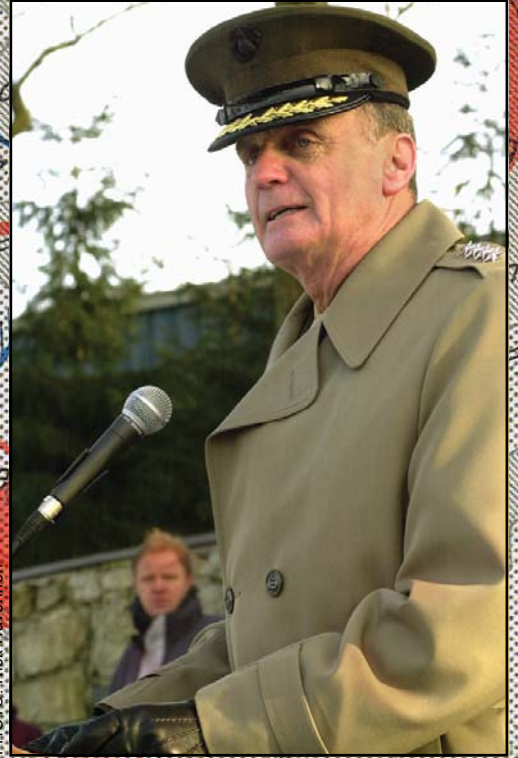


PHOTO: Rick Havenner

Gen. James Jones, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, was keynote speaker for the Dec. 19 ceremony at Malmedy, Belgium.



PHOTO: Rick Havenner



PHOTO: Rick Havenner

By J.D. Hardesty

"Taps" – the easily recognizable 24 notes of a military bugle call rendering emotion, honor and respect, was heard in cemeteries and at memorials throughout the Benelux during the 60th Anniversary celebration of the Battle of the Bulge.

With Allied veterans from across the world returning to the place where one of the fiercest battles ever known was decided 60 years ago, a bugler's 24-notes were surrounded by wreaths, color guards, 21-gun-salute firing details and other pageantry at Houffalize, La Roche-en-Ardenne, Noville, Bastogne, Malmedy, and other towns throughout the Ardennes Forest.

At Malmedy, where "Taps" echoed against the memorial honoring 82 Soldiers massacred by Nazi SS troops in 1944, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, U.S. Marine Corps Gen. James L. Jones told those attending the memorial service, "We are gathered here to honor the memory of the Soldiers and civilians of our countries who fell on the battlefield 60 years ago during the month of December. We commemorate the liberation of

Malmedy and the defense of the city during the Battle of the Bulge."

After saluting the citizens of Belgium for the bravery with which they fought tyranny, Jones told the veterans attending the memorial "we thank you for your sacrifice and your example."

At one of the most moving wreath-laying ceremonies, Soldiers from the 1st and 3rd Armies converged on Bastogne Dec. 16, revisiting the turning point of World War II and the Mardasson Memorial erected in their honor.

Their fierce fighting against the dark days of Nazi fascism served as the light switch 60 years ago for the liberation of Western Europe. And the city of Bastogne wanted to say thank you.

"All of the bells ringing throughout southern Belgium and Luxemburg this morning signify our thank you to our fallen comrades who can't stand here with you today," said Brig. Gen. (retired) Guy Melchior to the crowd gathered at the Mardasson Memorial erected to honor those American Soldiers who fought against Nazi oppression. "You saved

freedom and democracy.

"Our citizens were oppressed for four years with nowhere to go. You have given me 60 years of freedom and democracy under (combat) conditions I will never know," said Melchior, a former military attaché to Washington D.C. "It is easy to say those words now, but not in Ardennes in 1944," he said. "Today, we can only imagine how difficult your struggle was."

For 60 years Bastogne has remembered the conflict, the sacrifice and the high cost of freedom. "Those veterans who fought valiantly and are resting in peace, they would say 'Well done,'" Melchior told those returning to the battlefields where they fought 60 years earlier. "The children from Bastogne will see from your eyes the spirit with which you fought and the price of freedom. They will always know. This I promise you."

Thirty-two American divisions fought in the Battle of the Bulge, where the daily battle strength of U.S. Army forces averaged 26 divisions and over 600,000 men. The cost of victory was staggering, with 80,987 casualties in the Battle of the Ardennes.



PHOTO: Rick Havenner

King Albert II of Belgium places a wreath in memory of all the victims of the Battle of the Bulge in a ceremony Dec. 18 at the Mardasson Memorial in Bastogne.

The Bulge as viewed from the front



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

Raymond Dynowski, left, a veteran of 35th Tank Bn., 4th Armored Div., and John McAuliffe, a 347th Inf. Reg., 87th Inf. Div. veteran, share memories in Bastogne Dec. 17.

Piercing the Bastogne ring **By Rick Haverinen**

When Bastogne, Belgium was surrounded by Nazi military units in late December 1944, Ray Dynowski was with one of the first U.S. armor units to break through.

Assigned to 35th Tank Bn., 4th Armored Div., Dynowski's unit was right behind the 37th Tank Bn., the point unit which owns the distinction of piercing the German ring to get to the encircled 101st Airborne Div. "All of Bastogne was tore up," said tank

driver Dynowski. "We went into Bastogne and I don't remember if it was north, east, or what. We took off that wrong road and kept on going. There was rubble all over the place, trucks that were shot up and men, everything."

The 37th and 35th Tank Battalions, part of Patton's Third Army, were knocking out German resistance so trucks following behind could resupply the 101st with ammunition, food, and warmer uniforms.

"When we went in to Bastogne on Dec. 26, and broke through, there was a whole column of ambulances coming out with sick and wounded of the 101st Airborne," Dynowski said. "We got to a certain area, and here was a regular sergeant. He was walking across a field, he had a real light jacket on, and his teeth were chattering. And then we went a little ways down. We were standing on a ridge, and you know the land around Bastogne has sort of valleys, there was a tank destroyer and he was firing at ten tanks down the hill and he was blowing them up."

Dynowski arrived in England Jan. 12, 1944. His unit waited its turn and rode LSTs to land at Utah beach in late June. There they hooked up with 4th Inf. Div.

"We cut the Brest peninsula in half," Dynowski said, "and then we went toward where the Germans had the submarines pens toward the south."

Dynowski's company lost about a dozen

tanks in France, but plodded to Rens, a railroad hub, and then on to Orleans.

"The 4th Armor was relieved I think by the 12th Armor in the Saar Basin," Dynowski said. "Actually we were shot up quite badly. Then I was in C Company, 35th Tank. The company only had 8-9 tanks out of 17. And they pulled us back to get more tanks, more men, and then we could start out. We were in a rest area. So then Gen. Patton says he's going to have troops within 24 hours. And they alerted us and we drove day and night and the next afternoon we come in contact with the German forces around Arlon. We got rid of them and kept on going. We were fighting from one town to another. You know, pockets of Nazi forces. We didn't move as fast as we went across France. We had the same problem in the Saar basin."

Dynowski said some of the German units surrendered as if "probably they got tired of fighting."

Dynowski said the tremendous buildup of men and military equipment prior to D-Day made victory in Europe possible in just 11 months.

"But if the Germans had air power, I don't think we would have had that easy of a job getting into Europe," Dynowski said.

The Sherman tank parked in Bastogne's McAuliffe Square is painted on one side with the 4th Armored Div. insignia and with the symbol of 11th Armored Div. on the other.

"We did something good." **By J.D. Hardesty**

Third Army was on the attack driving to the Rhine when Bertram Mintz, a light machine gunner with Company B, 20th Armored Infantry Bn., Combat Command B, 10th Armored Div. and the rest of his unit received new orders Dec. 15, 1944 redirecting Combat Command B to Bastogne.

"We didn't really know what was happening in the war, the concentration camps and the incinerators. We just knew that the Germans were anti-Semitic," said Mintz, a Jew fighting against the German SS Panzers.

"The Germans were probing with regiments to determine the Allied strength in the area," Mintz said as he discussed the battles of 60 years earlier. The battles that would liberate Bastogne, turn the Third Reich into retreat, would also label Mintz and his fellow Soldiers as America's greatest generation.

Mintz, whose rank fluctuated in those days between private and sergeant because of his "independent

thinking," said he had already decided he would "rather die fighting Nazis than be a Jewish prisoner of war."

"We were basically an outpost on the southern route," said Mintz, a native of Long Island, N.Y., but calls Northridge, Calif., home. "We hid our anti-tank platoon in the woods and set our sights on the muddy road ahead."

Mintz said three rifle platoons, a mortar platoon and an anti-tank platoon "took out the first and the fourth Panzer tanks to block the road forward into Bastogne and any possible retreat before we flanked the other two tanks and took them out with bazookas."

The Combat Command B Soldiers understood the importance of their mission.

"Had we not been there, Bastogne would have been under German control and the 101st would have been greeted by the Germans," said the 79 year-old who was drafted into military service. "Each day the German troops probed from a different direction. They must have had a division

against us because each time they would attack we saw different regimental labels on their uniforms."

The German's approach into his sector ended as the 101st Airborne Div. backfilled units around Bastogne. The Combat company-size unit would also fight in Noville and Bras in the Ardennes.

"Once the 101st arrived, we were sent forward to dig in and repel future attacks... which came," he said. "The attacks were sometimes hand-to-hand fighting and continued until after Christmas. They continued for me until I thought I had died and gone to heaven."

The machine gunner wouldn't join his fellow freedom fighters as 10th Armored Infantry Div. joined 3rd Army's drive to clear the Saar-Moselle triangle and advance south to Innsbruck, Austria before the war in Europe ended.

Mintz said he awoke in a Paris hospital in early January. He had been shot in the face with the concussion causing severe damage. He would receive medical attention and facial reconstruction surgeries

for six months before returning to Long Island.

"My mother saw my face and nearly fainted," he said. "She took me to plastic surgeons in New York and my reconstructive surgeries continued until my appearance looked normal."

Returning to Bastogne for the 60th anniversary celebration, he said, "Every time I meet a Belgian, they still thank me for fighting for their freedom until it is almost embarrassing. I think they are some of the nicest people I have ever met. It makes me feel everything we did, all of the lives lost, were not in vain. The afterthought of the war is that we did something good."

"I didn't recognize the significance of my contributions because we didn't know how everything fit the grand scheme of things," he said. "We were Soldiers... we just followed orders. I was scared, but I still followed orders."



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

Bertram Mintz is a veteran of Co. B, 20th Armored Infantry Bn., Combat Command B, 10th Armored Div.

He said there was nothing to point to as to why he survived and others didn't. "It is just pure dumb luck," he said. "The main thing was to take care of each other. There were no illusions or idealism; we just kept taking care of each other."

"Shifty"

By J.D. Hardesty

His journey to Bastogne 60 years before as a paratrooper with Co. E, 2nd Bn., 502nd Parachute Inf. Reg., 101st Airborne Div. has been archived in literature and by Hollywood.

For Darrell "Shifty" Powers, the son of a World War I veteran, there was nothing famous about the then-staff sergeant's jump into the Ardennes with Easy Company in 1944.

Powers and his Easy Company brothers-in-arms jumped in on Christmas Day. "Our guys were so scattered from the jump that we didn't have enough people to assault anyone," he said.

The Soldiers from Easy Company quickly joined forces with troops manning

the Allied lines, through fierce fighting northwest of Bastogne near the town of Longchamps.



Darrell Powers

They fought from tree to tree, house to house, through several towns and numerous firefights in the Ardennes Forest until Jan. 17, when the battle for Bastogne was nearing a victorious end at Bourcy, Belgium.

Each day, each firefight took its toll on the Soldiers embattled against the Third Reich's last major offensive to repel the Allies and capture the port city of Antwerp.

"Some of us got though living, some didn't," Powell said.

Six of those Easy Company "Band of Brothers" who stood toe to toe with Hitler's best troops in the Ardennes returned to

Bastogne to visit those fallen comrades who gave their all.

"I thought of coming back to Bastogne often the past few years," Powell said, though this is the first time he has made the trip. "It is good to be back, but it was sad to visit the cemeteries where four of his former fellow Soldiers are buried."

As he discussed times past with many area residents who lived through the tumultuous times of Nazi oppression, he said, "The City of Bastogne and the Belgians have treated all of Easy Company real nice."

Receiving celebrity status since the "Band of Brothers" miniseries, Powers said, "I never talked about my war experiences to anyone about until the book and miniseries came out. I wanted to keep what was in the past, in the past."

Once the miniseries aired, Powers said his co-workers of 23 years wanted to know

more about the Battle of the Bulge.

"And so do today's Soldiers," he said.

The Virginia native said, "I like talking to our Soldiers. It's good to know we have such energetic people taking care of us."

He said Soldiers are interested and pay attention to what he has to say. "Their work is so important. I tell them to be careful and be alert. Maybe our talks will help them somewhere down the road."

The former paratrooper who volunteered to serve in World War II said, "If I was 55 years younger, I would be there fighting with our Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan."

He offered a little advice for Soldiers returning from fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, "Put all of your battle memories in a box and put it under your bed. Your experiences will be on your mind, but it can be handled. You should be proud of what you have accomplished."

They helped Soldiers to survive



Kate Nolan, at lower right, poses with five other nurses from 3rd Platoon, 53rd Field Hospital, plus three more nurses from the surgical group. The picture was made near Bastogne in October 1944.

Courage was not confined to foxholes, aircraft and LST pilots during World War II. Impressive bravery and incredible stamina were demonstrated by the corpsmen, surgeons and nurses who cared for the wounded and saved many lives just an hour's walk from the front lines. Here are the stories of two World War II U.S. Army nurses who endured uncomfortable living conditions and marathon working hours so that their young patients could live to enjoy the years that lay beyond their twenties.

By Rick Haverinen

As told by Kate Nolan,
53rd Field Hospital

"I was in from Aug. 6, 1943 until March 1946. We had to be registered nurses. When they'd get enough people, they'd put us through basic training."

"We trained at Fort Bragg and went to England where we had intensive physical training, 10-mile hikes, three times a week, with full packs. Up hill and down dale and rain and everything. We needed stamina because of the long hours and the living conditions. We were in tents pretty much all the time."

"Shortly after D-Day we landed at Utah Beach and after St. Lo, we were with the Third Army. We went from Britany to the Ardennes, the Battle of the Bulge, and central Europe and to the Rhineland."

"We didn't have helicopters, so the field hospitals had to be within five miles of the front. Usually we were closer."

"Sometimes there were two or three surgical teams working on a patient. The thoracic team might be working on a chest and they might have an orthopaedic team on a limb or abdominal, or neurosurgical team working on the head. Our dentist went into surgery with the facial injuries and saved a lot of teeth."

"I was part of the shock team. We'd stabilize them, and get them ready for surgery. We were a trauma unit, really."

"When there was a push, we'd work sometimes 28-48 hours without a break, until every patient was out of surgery. As long as we had incoming wounded, everybody was on duty."



Kate Nolan, left, and fellow nurse Ruth Stevens in front of a rubble-strewn building outside of Juelich, Germany, northeast of Aachen. The hospital staff had to clean the new location before they could go to work.

"You remember certain faces. Actually we weren't supposed to take care of civilians, but we got this little 10 year-old Dutch girl when we were in Holland, who had been shot in the abdomen. Her brother found a German burp gun and accidentally shot her. They brought her to us

and of course, we couldn't turn her down. So the surgical teams went to work and she was such a brave little thing. We had one Dutch young man that came in and he was really great with little Tina. He gave her a lot of attention. But we had her for two weeks and then we got orders to go into Germany, so we had to take her back to Maastricht to a hospital there. They had no supplies. We took what we could spare, penicillin and morphine and bandages and IV tubes. But our Dutch friend, told us that she died about three weeks later. It affected all of us, because we believed that if we could have kept her, she would have lived."



U.S. Army nurses during World War II, Kate (Flynn) Nolan, left, and Rose Young revisited Bastogne for a reception Dec. 17.

"It's very satisfying to know that we were able to save so many lives, because 95 percent of the seriously wounded they were able to get to the field hospitals survived. The surgeons who operated on them and their whole surgical teams came from the best medical centers in the country, Johns Hopkins and the Mayo Clinic and Massachusetts General and that caliber of institutions. And we had the penicillin. We had a lot of things going for us."

What do you think of the people in today's Army?

"I think they're wonderful and it's hard for them to go in the service. You know, in WWII we had the whole country behind us. This war they don't know who's for them, even in their own country. There are so many enemies. It's a very strange situation."

As told by Rose Young
130th General Hospital

"I reported for duty Sept. 3, 1943. We were the whiz nurses because when we went in there, they were forming a unit. I had enlisted in New York City and we were shipped down to Camp Rucker, Ala. We were waiting for the nurses' basic training course but there was a hurry call for the unit, so they gave us a little brief

with our own enlisted men instead in the basic training course. Then they shipped us up to Boston and we landed in England on Dec. 3."

"We set up a hospital that was a special unit to treat and research combat fatigue, and that's what we did in England. They sent us down to Dover to wait in line to go across, and I went to the continent the first week in August. Our personnel were on the *Leopoldville*, and our equipment was on another ship, and the other ship was sunk. We landed in Normandy with no equipment. So we stayed in tents just behind the beach and we were daily shipped to other hospital units to just help out. And then at night they'd bring us back to our cow pasture in Normandy."

"There were 83 women in our group because we were a general hospital which is the biggest hospital unit you can have."

"We then moved to Ciney, Belgium, and that's where I stayed the rest of the time. I was in Ciney when the Bulge started. They emptied most of the wards and evacuated most of the help that weren't needed. They shipped them back to France. I was one of 12 who stayed behind and we got caught in the Bulge and we stayed there doing 24 hour duty."

"We were on duty all the time, no breaks at all, around the clock. There was a bathroom in the corner of the room and whenever I had to go to the bathroom, I waved to one of my corpsmen, so he watched the door until I came out. That was my break. We were walking zombies by the time. We were on our feet for 12 days."

"When it ended, a group of engineering Soldiers came in and brought us back to France. We slept over one night, got a shower and the next morning we were told we're all

going back because they had cleaned out the area enough to bring the whole staff back. So we were out of there for one day."

"My honest thing is that the Soldiers of that time, and especially the ones that fought in the Bulge, had a closer contact with the female nurse, because we were all much closer to combat. And I think to this day these men show us the greatest respect."

Are there particular faces you remember?

"I try not to because I had several boys that were on standby beside me when I was working on the ones coming in that were severely wounded. The corpsmen kept nursing, cleaning them and so forth, but my main job with those boys was to just keep talking to them. As I was working on others, I would call them by name and kind of chatter with them, you

know, because we knew that they were not going to make it. But you have to give that. It's not part of your job, but part of your being, to give them that support. Sometimes they would think you were their mother or someone, and it became a very intimate, personal thing to talk to these kids when they were hurting. We weren't much older than they were, but we had the job of being supportive of them."

What mark has your generation left on the world?

"We're getting cliché, but I think we were good examples to the generations to come afterwards, because we came from the Depression, into a war, and then were offered our education. So we were given a way to develop ourselves that maybe no other generation has had."

"I was sent home on leave when the (atomic) bomb was dropped. They extended our leaves and then finally they sent our discharges. They wanted to get the nurses into civilian life because there was a shortage. I married and had three children. And most of the time during their growing years I was night supervisor in a small private hospital in New York City."



Rose Young during World War II

Pas de fête sans Bob



Getting royal treatment, World War II veteran Bob Lott poses with Luxembourg's first family at the American Military Cemetery in Hamm Dec. 16. Left to right immediately behind Lott are Hereditary Grand Duke Guillaume, Prince Félix, Grand Duchess Maria Teresa, and Grand Duke Henri.

By Rick Haverinen

It's not a party without Bob. However, Bob Lott had to wait some years before he could party in Bastogne, Belgium.

Lott first came to Bastogne in 1944, as a guest of the U.S. Army. Instead of party clothes, he wore a uniform with a 101st Airborne Screaming Eagle patch, and he carried a rifle.

Life in Bastogne got interesting for Lott on Dec. 23, 1944, about 24 hours after acting 101st Airborne commander Brig. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe told German officers "Nuts," when they brought him an ultimatum to surrender. At the time, Lott and several other 101st Soldiers from his company were guarding an intersection of what is now Highway N-4 in Flamierge, at the western edge of the Americans' perimeter around the city.

"I was on an outpost," Lott remembered. "I wasn't with

my company, they were back up on the hill. And we were very low on ammunition. I had an M1. Anyway, I was shooting, and (German) tanks were going by me. Way back up of me at battalion headquarters, (the German tanks) shot and blew up ammunition (hidden in a haystack) and so they knew we were there."

Lott found a discarded bazooka. There was only one round with the weapon, and the fins were bent. Lott thought if he could shoot the bazooka round toward the column of German tanks, he might frighten them away.

"I straightened the fins, put the shell in, and then I set it for 350 yards and it went whoosh," Lott said, "and it came down behind the (drive) wheel of the tank."

The shot damaged the track and the tank went around in circles. Lott saw the tank commander pop out of the hatch and after some misses, he adjusted his lead space, fired a final rifle round, and the tank commander slumped.

"They saw where the firing was coming from, and they shelled us terrible," Lott said, "and then the tanks turned around and went back and then everything was quiet."

The lull didn't last long and the Germans returned in numbers. In the darkness, Lott and the other Soldiers at his post dodged between the advancing German Soldiers and back to safety.

Christmas Day Lott exchanged candy bars with a fellow Soldier. Any festive spirit was shattered later when Lott's friend was one of several Americans mistaken for Germans, and killed by machine gun fire from a U.S. fighter airplane.

Three days later Lott was wounded in the face when he stood up in his foxhole.

Lott recovered from that injury and toward the end of the war in Europe the 101st Airborne was in Berchtesgaden, the site of Hitler's mountain retreat complex. Lott was then a staff sergeant, and he led visiting general officers through Hitler's tunnel complex.



PHOTO: Peter van de Wal

Helen Patton-Plusczyk, granddaughter of Gen. George Patton, visited Lott's table in a Bastogne restaurant and sang "The White Cliffs of Dover" for him.

Lott returned to Bastogne ten years ago during the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. While in Bastogne last month, he was followed almost everywhere by three younger guys from the Netherlands who met him on two previous trips. Bob's son Rob was also with him in Bastogne last month.

Lott must be blessed because good things are always happening to him. Some examples from his Bastogne trip: he got a room with a great second-floor view of McAuliffe Square when the hotel was supposed to be all booked; General Patton's granddaughter, Helen Patton-Plusczyk, spontaneously sang for him in a restaurant; the proprietors of a watch shop shuttled out cups of steaming coffee while he watched a parade; he literally stopped a parade on Dec. 19 when WWII reenactors jumped off their truck to be photographed with him; he was very graciously received by the Duke of Luxembourg and his family; with the help of Lt. Col. Scott Glass and others in the 80th Area Support Group S2/S3 office, Bob found the exact location where he disabled the German tank with the defective bazooka shell 60 years ago.

Lott said he can look at many of his wartime experiences with amusement.

"I'm so happy that I feel positive about the thing," Lott said, "and I don't feel bitter about it. Yeah, I think we set an example, the greatest generation, I really do. We all pitched in together. You couldn't ask for anything. As a Soldier I couldn't even put my thumb up (to hitch a ride,) never had to want for anything to eat when I was on a train trip in uniform. So I'm glad I had that era. And that's just about how I feel. And I'm proud of it too."



Lott in uniform

Two 101st combat vets compare notes

By Rick Haverinen

Two combat veterans from the same unit of the 101st Airborne Div. met in Bastogne last month to compare combat notes made 59 years apart.

Bob Lott was a Pfc assigned to 3rd Bn., 327th Inf. Reg. of the 101st Airborne Div. fighting in Bastogne in December 1944.

Sgt. Paul Yoder, 22, was assigned to the identical battalion, but a different company, of the 101st while fighting in Iraq in the spring of 2003. Yoder has been in the U.S. Army four years, and he's now assigned to Co. E, 51st Inf., V Corps long-range surveillance, in Darmstadt, Germany.

The two combat vets met Dec. 19 in Lott's hotel on McAuliffe Square in Bastogne. Both were in town to take part in ceremonies commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

Lott told Yoder he hoped he wouldn't have to go through the same kind of trouble to get the recognition the WWII vets were getting that week in Bastogne 60 years later.

"I know you're going to be proud you're 101st and I want you to be," Lott told Yoder.

"I'm definitely very proud of the



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

Sgt. Paul Yoder, talks with Bob Lott in Lott's hotel in Bastogne Dec. 19. Both combat veterans were assigned to 3rd Bn., 327th Inf. Reg. of the 101st Airborne, but 59 years apart.

101st," Yoder said. "It was a great unit to be in. I grew up there. Picked up my E-5 there, fought many hard battles in Iraq. And yeah, I don't believe it's the same as your fighting here, but I do believe it is for a great cause, and I hope that one day, that we can go there, like we come to places like Bastogne or Ste. Mère Eglise."

"I just feel sorry for you Soldiers in Iraq, because back in the (States) I've been so disappointed the news

media is so negative," Lott said. "We're very proud you're there, but I'm afraid you Soldiers are getting the wrong word that we're not proud of you. And we know you're there for a good cause, and why the hell they don't show on television about these girls going to school for the first time, the mothers are able to do things they never were able to do before. You guys have done so damn much there, I feel more than we accomplished here,

honest. We had the Germans to get out of here, and that's all we did. You fellows are giving those people a new life. And that's how I feel about you guys. You're doing a great job."

"The war (in Iraq) is still going on," Yoder told Lott. "However, when we were there we could see our successes budding. We could see the electricity being on all day instead of for an hour. We could see sewage running in a sewer instead of in the streets. We could see people eating, people walking freely, people protesting, applying for jobs, things that in the beginning you just wouldn't see. I know that when we finally did liberate the city of Najef, and it was the same in Baghdad and in Mosul, and I'm sure in other places where the Soldiers fought, that we'd be in the middle, and the entire city would be out there, just as I've seen on old newsreels in Belgium and in France and in Germany of people being liberated, and they're just out there with smiles and waving and..."

"It's a good feeling," Lott remembered.

"It's an amazing feeling," Yoder said.

"Even when we were on the

landing field (in the Netherlands in 1944,) those people were out there wanting to give us things," Lott said, "milk, and stuff like that. I fought an easier war than you did."

"I don't know if I can agree quite with that, but I can understand where you're coming from," Yoder told Lott. "What a lot of people don't see, is the Iraqi people are one of the most generous people that I have ever met."

"I didn't know that," Lott said.

"Amazingly," Yoder said, "and these people have nothing. They live in houses made of mud and straw sometimes. And (have families with) maybe nine or ten children, and they'll come out and bring you tea. And they'll have chicken or something, and they'll just bring it to you. They don't have anything to give, but they'll bring it out."

"I'm glad to hear that," Lott said. "That's the first I've heard of it, honest. I'm a nut about watching the news media. I just want to hear something good like that. You made my day there too. I had no idea they were appreciative in the sense that they would want to give you something and do things like that. You're getting some of it then."

Brussels Community Calendar

Multi Crafts Center - Basic Ceramic Classes (by appointment only), Jan. 16, 23 and 30, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Jewelry Making Class Jan. 19, 26, 6-9 p.m. Wood shop powertool orientation, Jan. 19, 26, 2-9 p.m., Framing Class, Jan. 20, 27, 2-5 p.m. or 6-9 p.m. Call 368-9629 to register.

Auto Craft Shop - Motorcycle, automotive class Jan. 19, 26, 7-9 p.m., and Automotive class for dummies Jan. 20, 27, 7-9 p.m., Vehicle winter check also available Jan. 21, 28, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Call 368-9743 for reservations.

Three Star Lounge: YS Middle School Dance, Jan. 21, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Seafood Night and Pool Tournament, Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m., advance purchase of \$15 tickets required; Movie Night with half price pizza, Jan. 20, 27, 7 p.m.; Country and Western Night, Jan.

28, 8 p.m., Call 368-9822 for more information.

Three part NSA Newcomers' Briefing - Part I: Brussels Agencies and Programs Overview, Jan. 18, 8:45 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.; Part II: Tour of Leuven Hospital, Jan. 19, 9:30 a.m. to noon; Part III: Tour of Delhaize in Kraainem, Jan. 20, 9-11 a.m. Advance sign up ACS. Call 368-9729 for info.

"Becoming an Emergency Placement Care Provider" workshop is Jan. 18, noon-1 p.m., and Jan. 19, 6-7 p.m., at the NSA building 4 Conference Room, top floor. Pre-registration is required. Call 368-9721 for more info.

Free Computer Classes: Microsoft WORD, Jan. 24, Microsoft EXCEL, Jan. 25, Microsoft OUTLOOK and POWERPOINT, Jan. 26, Microsoft ACCESS, Jan. 27. All



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

Caroling we go

The SHAPE Elementary Singing Knights performed with the SHAPE International Band as well as the 80th Area Support Group's holiday tree lighting ceremony in December. Left to right are Drew Johnston, Kierra Harrison, Angelique Taloyo, Jessica Castillo, and Asta Nielsen. All are 9, except Asta, who is 10. The group is directed by Kirstin Dillenbeck.

classes are 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (pre-registration required), Community Computer Lab, NSA bldg. 1. Call 368-9735 for info.

Toddler Playgroup, Jan. 18, 21, 25, 28, 10 a.m.-noon, CYS Multipurpose room. Call 368-9684 for more info.

Sports and Fitness - Adult basketball league, Mondays and Wednesdays, Jan. 19-March 25;

ongoing, self-paced Run For Life program, patches awarded for 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 750 and 1000 miles; ongoing individual MEDEX training. For more info, call 02 717-9667.

CLEP, DANTES, ECE, and other selected tests will be administered by the SHAPE testing officer on alternate Wednesdays beginning Jan. 19, 8:30 a.m., with one week's

prior registration. Sessions are on an as required/demand basis. A minimum of 3 examinees are required. Testing at SHAPE is possible at other times.

Education Center is available for consultation at the U. S. Embassy Brussels Community Liaison Office Feb. 4, from noon to 2 p.m., as a service to Tri-Mission personnel.

254th BSB Local Calendar

Finding Employment Workshop is Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon, and a Resume/Resumix workshop is 2-4 p.m.

Stress Management Class is Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m.

Anger Management Class is Thursdays, 10 a.m.-noon. Call 360-7500 to sign up.

Managing Difficult Teenagers Classes are Jan. 28, 1-3 p.m. Call 360-7500 for more info.

Couples Communication Classes are Jan. 25, 26, 6-8 p.m. Call 360-7500 for info.

La Leche League, Jan. 19, 10-11 a.m., Call 360-7500.

Life Skills classes: Child Safety, Jan. 19, 26, 1-3 p.m.

Playmorning, Thursdays from 9.30-11.30 a.m. at the Schinnen Sports Center. Call 360-7500.

JFC Arts and Crafts Center - Basic Ceramic Painting and Dry Brush Painting Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon, Creative Memories Workshop/Scrapbooking, Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon. Beginner Ceramic Pouring Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon and 6-7 p.m., Gem Tree Class, Wednesdays, 3-5 p.m., Fine Arts Class, Thursdays, 10 a.m.-noon. All classes by appointment. Call to register. Fly Fishing/Fly Tying class is offered Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. - just drop in. For info call 364-2454.

AFTB Class: "Getting to know you", Jan.

24, 9 a.m.-2.30 p.m., ACS, Bldg. 39, Conference Room, Call 360-7500 for info.

Coffee Hour for Families of Deployed Soldiers, Jan. 26, 10 a.m. to noon, ACS, Bldg. 39/43. Call 360-7500 for info.

BOSS Meeting, Jan. 27, 2 p.m., JFC Brunssum, U.S. Delegation Bldg., 364-3748.

Newcomer's Briefing, Jan. 28, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., ACS, Bldg. 39/43, DSN 360-7500.

Veterinary Clinic on JFC HQ Brunssum is open Jan. 26, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. For info call 361-5435 or 32 68 275435.

Army Career and Alumni Program briefing at the Education Center in Treebeek is Feb. 8, 9, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Class open to all 80th ASG military, civilians and their spouses. Call ACS to sign up.

Self Service Supply Center is closed for inventory Jan. 30 - Feb. 4.

Alliance Players auditions cast for two spring productions, "Love Letters" and "Plaza Suite," Jan. 16-17, 6 p.m., at the Alliance Theatre, JFC Brunssum. The group needs five females and six males, 20-70 years of age. For more information e-mail Lisa Baker-Slaughter, info@allianceplayers.com.

'Love and Logic' Course offered holds a couples' communication course, "Love and Logic," Jan. 25-26, 6p.m. to 8 p.m.; and

Feb. 12 and 19, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the ACS conference room. For more info call 31 46 443-7367.

254th Base Support Battalion has a logo design contest. The BSB will transition to U.S. Army Garrison, Schinnen Oct. 5, and needs a new logo. The contest is open to everyone. Entry deadline is 4 p.m., Feb. 1. For more info and contest rules call Connie Andrews at 360-7438 or 31 46 443-7438.

Breast feeding Support Group for mothers who are breast feeding or considering breast feeding will meet Jan. 19, 10-11 a.m., at ACS, Building 39, conference room. Call Michelle Tucker, at 360-7335 or 31 46 443-7335 for info.

Newcomers can learn about Schinnen and the surrounding area, how to use the trains system and more at the newcomers briefing Jan. 14, 28, Feb. 25, 8:45 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at the ACS Conference room. Call 31 46 443-7512 for info.

Dutch Headstart Classes are available for all military, civilian, and their families. Classes are Jan. 31-Feb 11, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The class and supplies are free through the Treebeek Education Center. Registration closes Jan. 24. Call 364-6041 or 45 563-604 for info.

Parents Night Out is Jan. 21, 7-11 p.m. A Parent's Advisory Council meeting will be held on Jan. 19, and Feb 16. Call DSN 364-

3816 or 364-2575 for info.

Child Safety Class is Jan. 19, 26, 1-3 p.m., at the ACS conference room. For information call 360-7500 or 0031 46 443-7500.

Coffee Hour for Families of Deployed Soldiers - Schinnen ACS will hold a coffee hour for families of deployed soldiers Jan. 26, and Feb. 9, 23, 10 a.m.-noon in the ACS conference room. Call 360-7500 or 31 46 443-7500 for info.

Army Family Team Building is sponsoring classes: STOP! Where Do We Go From Here? - Jan. 19, 1:30-4 p.m.; and Getting to Know You - Jan. 24, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. All classes are in the ACS Conference Room. Call 360-7335 or 31 46 443-7335 to register.

Anger Management Classes are Jan. 20, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24; and March 3, 10 a.m.-noon, at the ACS conference room. Call 360-7500 or 31 46 443-7500 for info.

AFAP Conference needs volunteers for their next conference Mar. 10-11, at the Joint Forces Command International Chapel, Brunssum. For information call Sheilla Lee at 360-7263 or 31 46 443-7263.

New Parents Support Group hosts OB Orientation, Pre-Natal Education Classes Feb. 1, Mar. 1, and Apr. 5, 10 a.m.-noon at the GK Clinic conference room. Call 360-7335 or 31 46 443-7335 to register.

SHAPE and Chievres Community Calendar

Belgacom cash payments for telephone bills are no longer accepted at Bldg. 210 as of Jan. 1. The only exception is for final bills. Belgacom customers may use a direct payment system, pay at a Teleshop using a Bancontact card, or pay cash at the post office. Call the SHAPE International Housing Office at DSN 423-4681 for info.

University of Phoenix, SHAPE campus, is currently enrolling for the January term for Master of Business Administration and Master of Arts in Education programs. Call DSN 423-4645 or visit www.uopx.com/shapead.

SHAPE Healthcare Facility will offer glaucoma screenings Jan. 14, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and on Jan. 15, 22, 29, 8-10 a.m. in the optometry clinic. For more information, call DSN 423-5899.

Andrews Federal Credit Union is hiring a branch manager for the

Chievres office. Position requires a Bachelor's Degree in Business, Finance or a related field and three to five years experience in a retail branch atmosphere. Call Beth Erickson in Human Resources at 337-6581 or 49 611 9787-535 for info.

SHAPE Trips and Tours: Jan. 22, Luxembourg; Jan. 29, Monschau and Eupen Chocolate Factory; Feb. 4-6, London; Feb. 5-12, Skiing in Austria; Feb. 8, Disneyland Paris/Disney Studios. **Cultural Adaptation Trip** is Jan. 15, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The Brussels buss trip and an introduction to the Belgian culture is free. Call DSN 423-4332 for info.

Rendez-Vous with French language is Jan. 18, 9:30 a.m.-noon, at the W.E.B. office, Hotel Le Maisieres. Call DSN 366-6252 for more info.

Return and Reentry Class for

soldiers returning from deployment and their families will be held Jan. 18 and 25, 10 a.m. Call Kevin Russell at DSN 423-4352 for more info.

Victim Advocate Volunteer Classes are Jan. 20, 27, 10 a.m., at the Army Community Services, Building 318. Call 423-4352 for info.

First-term Financial Readiness Class is Jan. 25, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Call DSN 423-4824 for info.

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meeting is Jan. 20, 1:30 p.m., at the Community Activity Center Conference Room on SHAPE

Job Opportunities Briefing is Jan. 19, 26, 9 a.m.-noon at ACS, Bldg. 318. Call DSN 423-4904 for more info.

Take the Train class is Jan. 28, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Meet at ACS Bldg. 318, SHAPE.

Active Parenting Workshop is Jan. 25, 27, 7-9 p.m., at the SHAPE Child Development Center. Free childcare is provided. Call DSN 423-4352 for info.

Prime Time Lounge on Daumerie Caserne is open again for lunch service. The lounge hosts Karaoke every Friday. Call DSN 361-5540. **SHAPE Language Center** - Reenrollment for existing students is Jan. 24. New student enrollment is Jan. 31. For more info, call DSN 423-4971.

Veterinary Clinic - located on Daumerie Caserne will be open Jan. 25, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call DSN 361-5435 or 32 68 275435.

Dance Classes - Salsa, every Monday and Wednesday at the IC Club from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Cost is Euro 10 per couple, Euro 5 per class single. Beginners and advanced students welcome.

Adult Acting Class is offered Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m., at the Entertainment Centre for those 15 years of age and above. Cost is Euro 20 for 12 sessions.

Playwriting Class is offered Thursdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Cost is Euro 20 for 12 sessions.

Children's Theatre Classes are offered Thursdays, 4-5 p.m. for ages 5-9 and Fridays, 4-5:30 p.m. for ages 9-12. Cost Euro 8 for 12 sessions. Call DSN 423-3312 for info.

USO and Armed Forces Entertainment bring Tina Wesson, winner of the *Survivor* Australian Outback season, and Carl Smith, author of "The Fridge Patriot," for a handshake tour. The two will be at SHAPE International Library Jan. 17, 6-8 p.m.; and at the Chievres Post Exchange Jan. 18, noon-4 p.m. Call DSN 361-5506 for info.

Chill, hike, recreate conditions of 60 years ago



PHOTO: J. P. M. 'Doc' Ettes
Lt. Col. Richardson, Commander, 254th BSB, left, and Capt. John Lorenzen, 254th BSB, pose next to a crossroad sign while participating in a 20K march with members of the Dutch 101st Airborne re-enactors group in one of many events that commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

By Laurri Garcia

Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson, Commander of the 254th Base Support Bn. and Capt. John M. Lorenzen, also of the 254th BSB, joined members of the Dutch 101st Airborne re-enactors group, known as the Dutch Triple A re-enactors, Dec. 18-19, in a 20 kilometer march through the countryside of south Bastogne along the perimeter of the siege of Bastogne. This was just one of many events held in that region commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

"This event is very special to me," stated Richardson. "I'm here commemorating this historic event with my Dutch friends, many of whom feel they owe a great debt to the soldiers lost in this battle. This is the least we can do to remember those who gave so much for the freedom of others."

Richardson and Lorenzen dressed in World War II uniforms borrowed from members of the Dutch Triple A re-enactors group and were excited to participate.

"It is so cold, and the wind is blowing," remarked Lorenzen, "but I am sure this is nothing compared to the feelings experienced by those brave men who fought here so long ago. I am really proud and

excited to be here to honor their service and sacrifice, this is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Sixty years is a long time, and for many of the veterans, this may be their last trip to this area. I am proud to be here and honor them as well."

The Dutch Triple A re-enactors are particularly interested in the 506th Parachute Infantry Reg. of the 101st Airborne Div., the same unit portrayed in the HBO television series, "Band of Brothers." Triple A members only participate in events held at actual WWII historic sites.

Electronic updates

The 254th Base Support Bn. Public Affairs Office will send a copy of the Community Events Calendar and/or Tri-border News Notes directly to any customer who asks to be included in a 254th BSB update/news e-mail distribution list. To sign up, visit the 254th BSB Public Affairs Office or send an email to laurri.garcia@benelux.army.mil include your name and DEROS and we'll be glad to email this information directly to your work, home or both.

Seven host nation employees transition in 254th BSB

Seven local national employees, with a collective tenure of over 202 years of service to the U.S. Army, were honored by Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson, 254th Base Support Bn. commander, and their peers in an emotional retirement ceremony Nov. 30, at Schinnen's Dutch Cantina.

Lei Maes, Directorate of Logistics, 31 years, 8 months; Mai Schel, DOL, 37 years, 5 months; Giel Delahaye, DOL, 34 years, 3 months; Koos Sturmans, DOL, 20 years, one month; Jan Willems, Directorate of Public Works, 37 years, 7 months; No Adriolo, DPW, 26 years, and Frank Castermans, Safety, 12 years, 10 months, concluded their service to the U. S. Army with mixed emotions.

"I'm looking forward to spending more time with my family and grandchildren, but I will miss my friends here at the 254th," said Frank Castermans with tears in his eyes.

"We've lost years of experience and you will be sorely missed," stated Richardson. "You and your contributions will not be forgotten. Please do not forget us."



PHOTO: Loe Gelissen, DPW
Each retiree said their goodbyes to the friends and coworkers after receiving Certificates of Achievements, the Commander's Coin and the National Ensign presented to them by Lt. Col. Richard S.

Richardson, 254th BSB commander. Left to right are Jan Willems, No Adriolo, Mai Schel, Giel Delahaye, Koos Sturmans, Lei Maes and Frank Castermans.

Leisure Activities by Rita Hoefnagels

Jan. 14-16: Interclassics and TopMobiel, an international oldtimer and classic car show at MECC in Maastricht (NL). Entry: Euro12.50; children 11 and younger enter free. Open: Jan. 14, 2-9 p.m. and Jan. 15-16, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: www.interclassicsmaastricht.nl or call 31 43 383-8383.

Thru Jan. 15: Winter at the Open Air Museum in Arnhem (NL). Jack Frost rules the museum park, the square is turned into an ice-rink and with the inhabitants of the museum visitors will experience both the hardships the winter cold brings and the warmth of the fireplace. Entry: Euro 9; children (4-12) Euro 6. Information: 31 26 357-6111.

Jan. 15-16 and Jan. 22-23: Winter Efteling in Kaatsheuvel near Tilburg (NL). A magical winter atmosphere is created in the Fairytale Forest; there is a Children Winter Wonderland, a large, covered skating rink and lots of old-fashion winter fun. Entry: Euro 23. Information: 31 900 84037.

Thru Jan. 16: A winter city. Eindhoven (NL) is the place to go to for the ultimate holiday season feeling. There is a ice sculpture festival, an ice-skating rink at the market square, music shows and lots more.

Vacation Fair at Koninklijke Nederlandse Jaarbeurs in the center of Utrecht (NL). Entry: Euro 11, children Euro 7.50. Information: 31 900 5227-2387.

Jan. 19: El Callejón del Agua, guitar and Flamenco show at Theater aan het Vrijthof in the center of Maastricht (NL). Starts: 8:15 p.m. Entry: Euro 18. Information/reservations: 31 43 350-5555.

Jan. 20-23: Attractive Living Fair at IJsselhallen in Zwolle (NL). This fair is a source of inspiration for attractive living. Entry: Euro 7.50; children 13 years and younger enter free. Open: Jan. 20-21, noon-9 p.m.; Jan. 22-23, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 31 38 421-1843.

Jan. 27-30: Art & Antique Weekend in "Grote Kerk", Marktstraat 13 in Naarden-Vesting (NL). An exclusive art and antique fair tak-

ing place in the center of a historic fortified city. Open: Jan. 27, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Jan. 28, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Jan. 29, 1-7 p.m.; Jan. 30, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: Euro12.50 (incl. catalogue); children 13 and younger enter free. Information: 31 35 623-9695.

Jan. 29-30: Flea Market at MECC in Maastricht (NL). Open: Jan. 29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Jan. 30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: Euro 3; children (6-12) Euro 2. Information: 31 43 383-8383.

Thru Feb. 13: Nicholas and Alexandra Exhibition at Hermitage, Nieuwe Herengracht 14 in Amsterdam (NL). The exhibition tells the story of the last Tsar of Russia and his family by means of numerous personal belongings, pictures, and more. Entry: Euro 6. Information: 31 20 530-8751.

Thru Sept. 4: Mummies, a spectacular exhibition of mummies at Rijksmuseum van Oudheden in Leiden (NL). Entry: Euro 6; children (6-17) Euro 5.50. Information: www.rmo.nl.

Congratulations!

The following soldiers were promoted in a small ceremony at the 254th Base Support Bn. Dec. 30: Sgt. 1st Class Glen A. Steltenpohl, Sgt. Danielle Browders, and Sgt. William G. Hood.

An Army Career and Alumni Program briefing is Feb. 8-9, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Education Center in Treebeek (Schinnen.) The class is open to all 80th ASG military and civilian members and their spouses and provides important career transition information. Contact ACS to sign up.

AFNorth Alliance Theater



Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m. Alfie. Starring Jude Law, Marisa Tomei. Rated R. The story has Alfie, a Don Juanesque limo driver, speaking directly to the camera as he seduces the lovely ladies of the city from one bed to the next. Alfie faces a moral dilemma when considering that he's impregnated one of his latest girlfriends.

Jan. 15, 5:30 p.m. After the Sunset. Starring Pierce Brosnan. Rated PG-13. Life should be easy after a sterling career as a master thief. Though Max is retired to an island paradise, trouble comes looking for him when his former nemesis from the FBI shows up.

8 p.m. Ray. Starring Jamie Foxx. Rated PG-13. Ray Charles went blind at the age of 7. With the support of his determined mother, he developed the resolve, wit and incredible talent that would eventually enable him to overcome prejudices and discover his own sound.

Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m. Seed of Chucky. Starring Jennifer Tilly. Rated R. Glen is the orphan doll offspring of the irrepressible devilish doll-come-to-life Chucky and his equally twisted bride Tiffany.

Jan. 22, 5:30 p.m. SpongeBob Squarepants Movie. Animated. Rated PG. In the depths of Bikini Bottom King Neptune's crown has been stolen, and the prime suspect is Mr. Krabs. SpongeBob teams up with his best friend, Patrick, on a mission to exonerate Mr. Krabs.

8 p.m. Saw. Starring Cary Elwes, Danny Glover. Rated R. Obsessed with teaching his victims the value of life, a sadistic serial killer is abducting morally wayward people and forcing them to play horrific games for their own survival.

Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. Bridget Jones: the Edge of Reason. Starring Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth, Hugh Grant. Rated R. Erstwhile London singleton Bridget Jones is still happily dating human-rights lawyer Mark Darcy. Bridget's love life gets complicated when her former boss and flame Daniel Cleaver arrives on the scene.

American, Dutch bands delight audience



PHOTO: Sylvia Bowron

The 76th Army Band from Coleman Barracks in Mannheim, Germany delighted an American and Dutch audience Dec.

15 when it performed a concert marking the 60th Anniversary of the disappearance of music icon Glenn Miller.

Members of the tri-border community, both Dutch and American alike, received an early Christmas treat Dec. 15, when the 76th United States Army Band from Mannheim, Germany performed a concert in front of a packed house at the Brikke Oave in Brunssum, NL. The band sponsored by the 254th Base Support Bn. and hosted by the city of Brunssum, delighted the audience with their performance

featuring a tribute to Glenn Miller and a repertoire of patriotic American music. The band also shared the stage with the nationally acclaimed Dutch orchestra, Harmony St. Caecilia from Schinveld, NL.

Emphasizing a long standing relationship between the Dutch and American communities, both bands played tunes by Glenn Miller, marking the 60th anniversary of his dis-

appearance. As if on cue, each band played homage to the fallen hero who disappeared 60 years ago to the day of this performance.

Maj. Glenn Miller, the Director of the U.S. Army and Air Forces Band, disappeared Dec. 15, 1944 while flying over the English Channel en route from England to Paris. "Miller's legacy lives on and no where is that more evident than through the music of the two bands that performed here tonight," said Lauri Garcia. "The performance was wonderful and language was not a barrier because the music spoke to us all," concluded Garcia.

The Army band, conducted by Chief Warrant Officer Two John Mitchell, played variety of tunes ranging from Glenn Miller to Dixieland. The St. Caecilia Orchestra, under the baton of Mark Prils, impressed the audience with their wide variety of musical ensembles featuring music from various composers to include Henri Mancini and Joe Cocker.

The evening ended with thunderous applause and encores by both bands. "This was a tremendous night for all involved. We shared an evening of music and camaraderie with our gracious Dutch host and entertained our troops. I think Glenn Miller would have been proud," stated Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson, 254th Base Support Battalion Commander. "I hope this is a new tradition we'll share each year with the community and our Dutch friends," he concluded.

Three-on-three basketball tourney melts winter ice

By: Sylvia Bowron

The Schinnen Sports and Fitness Center celebrated the grand opening of its new basketball court with a ceremony Dec. 11, featuring a "Time Warp 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament" and a free raffle for all participants and attendees.

Command Sgt Maj. John Gaines of the 254th Base Support Bn. kicked off the day's events with the ribbon cutting. A double elimination tournament, featuring five teams quickly began warming up on the courts. Rob Kent, Physi-



cal Fitness Specialist, signaled the end of warm-up period, and announced which teams were to play on each court. The competition was fast and intense as each team Dip Set, Postal, 2 Scoops of HOOAH, Ordinary Guys, and Shooters of Success (SOS,) set out to win the double elimination tournament.

Each team did their best, but at the end of the double elimination, the championship game was between 2 Scoops of HOOAH and Ordinary Guys.

"We pulled our team together at the last moment to compete in the tournament, so we didn't get a chance to practice," said Toney Bryant, team captain.

Although there wasn't much

practice time for the 'Ordinary Guys', they came close to winning the game until 2 Scoops of HOOAH managed to edge out and win with a very close 11-10 score in sudden death overtime. 2 Scoops of HOOAH was the only team to go undefeated during the tournament. The third place finish went to SOS. Each member of the first and second place teams received certificates, and tournament T-shirts were given to all players. Prizes ranging from t-shirts to small ice chests were given to lucky winner attendees, players, team supporters and observers. The grand prize, a DVD player, was won by Wallace Turner at the end of the tournament.

"We really enjoyed the oppor-

tunity to play and thank the gym staff for putting the tournament together," added Bryant.



Home tour focuses extra light on holiday fun

By Sylvia Bowron

The American Spouses Club and the International Spouses Club Charity Committee held a "Christmas tour of Homes", Dec. 7, to raise funds for their various charities including the Children's Hospital and Women's Shelter in Kabul, Afghanistan.

The idea for the event came from Marian Bargewell, who recalled that every spring residents of six historic neighborhoods of Savannah, Ga. opened their homes to the public during the annual 'Tour of Homes and Gardens' and proceeds collected from the tour went to the sponsors. "I thought it

would be interesting to see how the different nationalities decorated their homes for the holidays," said Bargewell, "and the monies collected would be used for the many community programs our clubs support."

That idea spurred eight volunteers, five American, one Dutch, one Norwegian and one Dane to decorate and open their homes for one day. Despite the cold and rain, 100 ticket holders participated in the event.

"The three international ladies really enjoyed doing it," said Kim Lowe, American Spouses Club Special Project Coordinator.

"Most of the ladies also set their tables and talked about the various foods served and their particular customs for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day dinner.

"Each home was unique and interesting," Lowe continued. "Rosie Sutton's home was country cozy style and Kristie McEntire who also decorated in a country style was uniquely different. The next day, the ladies who opened their homes got together and visited each others homes and enjoyed talking about decorations and the different ways they celebrated the Christmas holidays," added Lowe.

Lowe said the organizations received a lot of great feedback and the international women really enjoyed the American homes. The clubs are considering doing the "Christmas Tour of Homes" again in December 2005. Each club received Euro 600 to use for their charities and other community projects.

"The American Women of Geilenkirchen who participated by selling and purchasing tickets for the event, are planning on participating in a more prominent manner should the event be held again," Lowe concluded.

Dispose of what you don't want with convenient Saturday hours

The 254th Base Support Bn. SORT Center will be open every Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and 1:30-4 p.m., beginning Jan. 15. The following items can be disposed of at the center: paper, cardboard, newsmagazines, metal cans, scrap metal, glass, plastic bottles, wood, old clothes and shoes, electronic waste, and household hazardous waste.

Trash generated on Schinnen will be sorted and disposed of in the SORT Center. US citizens authorized housing support are encouraged to dispose of their recyclable materials via the local municipalities. They may also dispose of recyclable materials at the SORT Center or the recycle island in front of the SORT Center. During opening hours on Saturday, the recycle island in front of the SORT Center will be closed to prevent the containers at the recycle island from becoming quickly overfilled. During normal hours of operation, we recommend that US citizens drive up to the SORT Center and empty their recyclables in the appropriate recycle containers as seen

in the photo below.

Personnel not authorized overseas housing support are prohibited from disposing waste at any location on Schinnen without the written approval of the 254th BSB Commander. Personnel are encouraged to use the local community disposal systems.

Household hazardous waste disposal is an integral part of the community SORT Program. Household hazardous waste is defined as waste that is hazardous to human health or the environment if improperly handled or disposed of. Examples include, but are not limited to, aerosol cans, oven cleaners, disinfectants, antifreeze, batteries, battery acid, oils, paints, thinners, fertilizers, insecticides and photographic chemicals.

To facilitate control of onsite hazardous waste, 254th BSB tenant organizations will turn in hazardous waste directly to the Hazardous Waste Storage Facility, Building 33, located on Schinnen. Turn-in will be each Wednesday,

1-2 p.m. U.S. citizens authorized housing support are encouraged to dispose of their household hazardous waste via the local municipalities. Houses should have special containers for disposal of household hazardous waste. Pick-up is done several times a year by a special hazardous waste truck with times established by each municipality. In most of the municipalities you are also allowed to take your household hazardous waste to the local SORT Center. U.S. citizens authorized housing support may also dispose of household hazardous waste on Saturday's at the SORT Center. Remember, it is against the law to improperly dispose of hazardous waste!

For further questions, please call the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Management Office, DSN 360-7283 or 31 46 443-7283. The SORT Center is located on Queen Juliana Street. Normal hours are Monday-Friday, 9-10 a.m., and 2-3 p.m., and now Saturdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and 1:30-4 p.m.

Americans fall in love with Ardennes' people all over again



A woman gives a boy an early history lesson as they look at floral wreaths presented in a Dec. 19 ceremony to honor U.S. soldiers killed in the "Malmedy Massacre."



Bastogne's kids are delighted to be targets for walnuts hurled Dec. 18 from the city hall balcony all to remember Brig. Gen. McAuliffe.



Bastogne shop window paintings insured the visiting American veterans would feel welcome.



The Stars and Stripes has protected citizens from tyranny and on Dec. 18 it protected at least one youngster from the cold.



Marie Pinhas of Brussels expresses her gratitude in Bastogne's McAuliffe Square Dec. 18.



The crowd in Bastogne shows appreciation as U.S. veterans from the Battle of the Bulge enter McAuliffe Square Dec. 18.

Behind-the-scenes team supports 60th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge

By J.D. Hardesty

Oscar award-winning movies would receive few accolades if it weren't for the hundreds of behind-the-scene directors, producers, cameramen, key grips and other support people making the production happen.

The same behind-the-scenes dedication by 80th Area Support Group workers made the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Ardennes a success.

With the spotlight cast on thousands of World War II veterans, dignitaries and citizens across the Benelux came out to thank the former Soldiers for the sacrifices they made on our behalf 60 years ago.

From ceremonies at the American Cemetery in Hamm, Luxembourg, to wreath-laying ceremonies at the Mardasson Memorial and Malmedy in Belgium, to the

Christmas Eve Mass celebration in a cave outside of Maastricht, the Netherlands, every unit in the 80th ASG's footprint supplied resources to make the 60th Anniversary a success.

"We created the synchronization of events, transportation, food and rehearsals for various elements supporting the celebration to honor those veterans who have become known as America's greatest generation," said Maj. Bill Willis, director of operations for the 80th ASG, and operations liaison for the week-long event.

Supporting Benelux communities throughout the 60th Anniversary celebration, Willis further explained, the 80th ASG coordinated logistical support, provided force protection assessments, provided color guards and 21-gun salute firing details.

Other 80th ASG behind-the-scenes efforts Willis noted included, community and host nation relations outreach, media relations coordination, support for V Corps' 76th Army Band, speech writing for Department of Defense dignitaries, and an historical overview of the battles fought six decades earlier.

"All of the long days, headaches, coordination and behind-the-scenes work were well worth it," Willis said. "The returning veterans, their stories and experiences are what truly mattered."

"Their stories are as real today as they were back then," he said. "All of our coordination and efforts helped create a memorable event to honor those who fought, survived, or gave the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and liberty against Nazi oppression."